President: The bridge was not cheated, but only unfortunate coolies.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: May I know whether any action was taken against Mr. Allan Prais, for cheating the coolies?

President: He is safe in some happy place. What more?

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Sir, it is said that some action was taken against Mr. Allan Prais for cheating Messrs. A. C. Gammon and Company of Bombay. May I know whether any action has been taken for cheating the poor native coolies?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: No charges were made against him for cheating the coolies.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Sir, to the question whether the native coolies and others who have been similarly cheated by the said agent had caused riot, the answer is, 'no.' It means therefore that there was cheating of coolies, but there was no riot.

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: The answer 'no' applies to both parts of the queston, Sir.

Construction of the bridge at Erappuzha.

56. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the pillars of the Erappuzha bridge had to be cut;

(*b*) the number of pillars so cut;

(*c*) the reason for the pillars being too long; and

(*d*) whether pillars had to be cast again for this bridge?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) to (*d*) These do not arise,

Coercive steps for realisation of land revenue in Tovala and Agastisvaram.

57. * **Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai:** (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether coercive steps for the realisation of arrears of land revenue by seizure and attachment of movables and house hold utensils are being vigorously pursued now in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram; and

(*b*) whether such coercive processes as the seizure and attachment of movables are being resorted to now by the Proverthikars and pakuthi accountants in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram for compelling the ryots to pay?

Mr. K. George: (*a*) and (*b*) Distraint of movables is resorted to in certain cases in the Agastisvaram taluk and is made only by the Proverthikars. No such coercive steps are being taken in the Tovala taluk.

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Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I know whether the Proverthikars are competent to resort to distraint of movables without the written consent of the Tahsildars or other revenue authorities ?

Mr. K. George : They do with the consent of the superior authorities.

Yield per acre of paddy lands in Tovala and Agastisvaram.

58. * **Mr. V. S. Arumukahm Pillai** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the average yield per acre of wet land in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram during the Kumbham crop of 1111 ;

(*b*) the average tax including water cess per acre of wet land in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram ; and

(*c*) the maximum price of paddy in terms of Nanjinad *kotta* during 1111 ?

Mr. K. George : (*a*) Nearly 6½ *kottas* of paddy in the Tovala taluk and 10 *kottas* in the Agastisvaram taluk :

(*b*) Rs 14—19 - 0 per annum in the Tovala taluk and about Rs. 20—0—0 in the Agastisvaram taluk ;

(*c*) Rs. 5 in the Tovala taluk and about Rs. 5½ in the Agastisvaram taluk.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I know how these figures are collected ?

Mr. K. George: They are collected by the Peishkar.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether any local inspection was made?

Mr. K. George: He must have got information by making enquiries.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: My question was whether any local inspection was made by the Peishkar or by the Tahsildar concerned ?

Mr. K. George: I am unable to say.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: With reference to the answer to part (*b*), may I know, Sir, whether such a rate is obtained anywhere else either in this State or outside ?

Mr. K. George: It is the average tax. The average is high, Sir. Whether it obtains anywhere else I cannot say.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: With reference to the answer to part (*c*), may I know for how many days paddy was selling at Rs. 5 and Rs. 5½?

Mr. K. George: That information I cannot give. At the time the question was answered this was the ruling price.

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